GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:611
ANSWERED ON:23.02.2001
SURPLUS STOCK OF FOODGRAINS
DALPAT SINGH PARASTE

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether several Food Corporation of India godowns and other Government warehouses are overflowing with Foodgrains;

(b) if so, actual expenses incurred in maintenance of this surplus stock;

(c) whether Indian Science congress recently gave some suggestion to the Government in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the action taken by the Government thereon;

(f) whether the Government also fears that there is a likelihood of diversion of these foodgrains; and
(g) if so, the preventive steps taken/proposed to be taken to check this diversion?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI CHAUHAN)

(a) Food Corporation of India has a total storage capacity of 30.07 million tonnes(Owned & Hired/Covered & Cover and Plinth) against the total stocks of 27.06 million tonnes with utilization of 90% all over the country as 1.01.2001.

(b) The quantum of surplus varies with reference to the level of procurement and offtake of foodgrains. Stocks of wheat and rice in the Central Pool as on 31.1.2001 were of the order of 241.18 lakh tonnes of wheat and 223.97 lakh tonnes of rice against the buffer norm of 84 lakh tonnes of wheat and rice respectively. However, the actual expenses incurred in the maintenance of the surplus stock would be known after the close of the year and the accounts are finalized, as the quantities vary on a daily basis. The carrying cost of buffer stock is estimated at Rs.2211 per MT per annum.

(c) No Sir.

(d) & (e): Do not arise.

(f) No, Sir.

(g) Does not arise.